

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-18. Cancelled.

19. (Previously amended) An ophthalmic surgery system comprising an ophthalmic measurement apparatus and a refractive correction surgery apparatus, wherein the ophthalmic measurement apparatus comprises:

optometry means for measuring a patient's eye to obtain measurement data on the eye necessary for refractive correction;

first photographing means for photographing an anterior segment of the eye;

first identification code acquiring means for extracting an iris pattern, which is inherently unique to the eye, by processing a first image of the eye anterior segment photographed by the first photographing means during the measurement of the eye, and obtaining a first identification code based on the extracted iris pattern;

storage means for storing the obtained measurement data or surgical data for the refractive correction generated based on the obtained measurement data in association with the obtained first identification code, and

output means for outputting the measurement data or the surgical data along with the associated first identification code which are stored in the storage means, and

the refractive correction surgery apparatus comprises:

surgery means for performing surgery for the refractive correction on the eye by irradiating a cornea of the eye with a laser beam for ablation;

second photographing means for photographing the eye anterior segment;

second identification code acquiring means for extracting the iris pattern by processing a second image of the eye anterior segment photographed by the second photographing means for positioning the eye before the irradiation of the laser beam, and obtaining a second identification code based on the extracted iris pattern;

comparison means for comparing the first identification code received from the ophthalmic measurement apparatus and the obtained second identification code to judge whether the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

permission means for permitting the surgery to be performed by the surgery means, based on the surgical data received from the ophthalmic measurement apparatus or permitting the surgical data to be generated based on the measurement data received from the ophthalmic measurement apparatus when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

20-26. Cancelled.

27. (Currently Amended) An ophthalmic system comprising an eye examination apparatus and a data management apparatus:

wherein the eye examination apparatus comprises:

optometry means for measuring a patient's eye to obtain measurement data on the eye necessary for refractive correction;

photographing means for photographing an anterior segment of the eye;

first identification code acquiring means for extracting an iris pattern, which is inherently unique to the eye, by processing a first image of the eye anterior segment

photographed by the photographing means during the measurement of the eye, and obtaining a first identification code based on the extracted iris pattern; and

first storage means for storing the obtained measurement data or surgical data for the refractive correction generated based on the obtained measurement data in association with the obtained first identification code; and

first output means for outputting the measurement data or the surgical data along with the associated first identification code which are stored in the first storage means;
wherein

the data management apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a second image of the eye anterior segment;

second identification code acquiring means for extracting the iris pattern by processing the input second image, and obtaining a second identification code based on the extracted iris pattern;

associating means for associating the obtained second identification code with a data storage area;

comparison means for comparing the first identification code received from the eye examination apparatus and the second identification code to judge whether the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

second storage means for storing the measurement data or the surgical data in association with the first identification code received from the eye examination apparatus in the data storage area in association with the second identified code when

the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

second output means for outputting the measurement data or the surgical data along with the associated second identification code which are stored in the second storage means to a refractive correction surgery apparatus for the refractive correction.

28-29. Cancelled.

30. (Previously Presented) An ophthalmic system comprising an eye examination apparatus and a data management apparatus,

wherein the eye examination apparatus comprises:

optometry means for measuring a patient's eye to obtain measurement data on the eye necessary for refractive correction;

photographing means for photographing an anterior segment of the eye;

identification code acquiring means for extracting an iris pattern, which is inherently unique to the eye, by processing an image of the eye anterior segment photographed by the photographing means during the measurement of the eye, and obtaining an identification code based on the extracted iris pattern;

first storage means for storing the obtained measurement data or surgical data for the refractive correction generated based on the obtained measurement data in association with the obtained identification code; and

first output means for outputting the measurement data or the surgical data along with the associated identification code which are stored in the first storage means, and the data management apparatus comprises:

second storage means for storing the measurement data or the surgical data along with the associated identification code which are received from the eye examination apparatus into a data storage area and associating the identification code with the data storage area;

comparison means for comparing the identification code stored in the second storage means and the identification code newly received from the eye examination apparatus to judge whether the stored identification code and the newly received identification code match;

assigning means for assigning the measurement data or the surgical data newly received from the eye examination apparatus in the data storage area in association with the identification code when the comparison means judges that the stored identification code and the newly received identification code match; and

second output means for outputting the measurement data or the surgical data along with the identification code which are stored in the second storage means to a refractive correction surgery apparatus for the refractive correction.